

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 151 711

CG 012 335

AUTHOR Stafford, Rebecca
TITLE Love in the Middle Years: The Interrelationship
Between Love and Marital Status, Parental Roles, and
Occupational Success.
PUB DATE [77]
NOTE 20p.
EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.83 HC-\$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Interpersonal Relationship; *Job Satisfaction;
*Marital Status; Marriage; *Middle Aged; Older
Adults; *Parent Role; Social Adjustment; State of the
Art Reviews
IDENTIFIERS *Romantic Relationship

ABSTRACT

There are four different types of love possible between men and women in the middle years. The type they feel for each other depends not upon their ages but upon whether they are married, whether they have children, and what is happening in their occupational careers. The intense feelings of romantic love are dampened by long association. Conjugal love is cooled off romantic love. It is a feeling accompanying a good interpersonal relationship. Couples in a "devitalized" marriage have a somewhat pleasant friendship, but they are emotionally distant. Couples in conflict-habituated marriages retain the marriage for the rewards it brings outside the interpersonal relationship: money, children, social status, a stable environment. The death of romantic love stems from discovering that one's spouse is an all-too-human being, discovering the restrictions on personal freedom imposed by marriage, and discovering that one had expectations for the spouse that are not being met. The engulfing nature of parental roles or the sense of occupational failure can also turn love sour. But in the golden years with the children grown and a reconciliation to the achieved level of occupational success there can be a rekindling of conjugal love.
(Author/JEL)

* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *

ED151711

LOVE IN THE MIDDLE YEARS: THE INTERRELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN LOVE AND MARITAL STATUS, PARENTAL
ROLES AND OCCUPATIONAL SUCCESS

Rebecca Stafford
University of Nevada, Reno

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS
MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

R. Stafford

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND
USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRO-
DUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM
THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGIN-
ATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS
STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT
OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

CG 012335

LOVE IN THE MIDDLE YEARS: THE INTERRELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN LOVE AND MARITAL STATUS, PARENTAL
ROLES AND OCCUPATIONAL SUCCESS

The middle years have been characterized as a time of mellowing and settling down. They call forth images of fathers comfortably enounced in chairs reading the newspaper while mothers in aprons say "there, there" to husband and growing children alike. Love in the middle years is stereotyped as unexciting calm or dull; no longer new but routine; no longer romantic but comfortable; no longer close but separate.

The problem with chronologically based notions of relationships between men and women is the assumption that somehow the aging process also ages relationships, that men and women in their forties have a different kind of love than they did in their twenties or thirties. Indeed they do, but it is not the result of merely accumulating the years or even the attending physical changes--the failing eyesight, the drooping derriere or the crows feet at the sides of the eyes. Neither is it primarily the consequence of longevity as companions and housemates. Instead, I will argue in the paper, that love in the middle years is responsive to alterations along the major axes of the couple's relationship to the larger society: their marital, parental and occupational roles. Further, I will argue that there is no such animal as love in the middle years. At least four different types of love are possible between men and women in the middle years. The type they feel for each other depend not upon their ages but whether they are married, whether they have children, and what is happening in their occupational careers. Now of course, age and the presence of children in the household, occupational attainments and marriage are highly correlated so it may appear that middle aged couples are afflicted with middle aged love, but the elements are truly separate. The primary determinants are the societal roles played by most middle aged couples.

We Are In Love

The first type of love experienced by some middle aged men and women is good old fashioned romantic love complete with heart palipatations, torment, all consuming passion, victory over obstacles and heady sexual desire. Romantic love is characterized by several psychoanalysts and social psychologists as having nine major elements: fantasy, fragility, intense desire for the physical presence of the loved one, desire for possession and development of jealousy, intense emotions and physiological manifestations, strong altruistic impulses, sexual attraction, wish for spiritual intimacy and belief in the uniqueness of the beloved (Knox and Sporkowski, 1968; Berscheid and Walster, 1974; Orlinsky, 1971; Rubin 1973, 1974).

Middle aged men and women are just as capable of experiencing all the elements of romantic love as teenagers. It is a common feeling that divorced people express for those whom they are currently dating, and married people for lovers. However, romantic love is not a feeling that most married couples have for each other unless they are newlywed. Why aren't middle aged married couples "in love"?

Social Psychologists Elaine Walster and Ellen Berscheid (1972, 1976) have argued cogently that "falling in love" has two necessary preconditions. The person must be intensely aroused physiologically and situational cues must indicate that "passionate love" is the appropriate label for these intense feelings. Among married couples, long association dampens the intense feelings needed for passionate love and middle aged people would not be prone to label intense feelings occurring in the everyday marriage as passionate love. However, they might label physiological arousal as love in the presence of someone other than in the spouse.

The social psychologists also contend that people who are lonely and dissatisfied with themselves and their relationship, who are experiencing a temporary loss of self esteem are particularly prone to falling in love (Orlinsky, 1971; Secord and Backman, 1974; Stafford, 1976). Divorced people feeling the loss of a mate and experiencing anomie as well as a sense of failure are particularly prone to romantic love. Married people if they feel "put down" because their self esteem is lowered by their mates or perhaps their career failures are also prone to fall in love. However, they do not fall in love with their spouse. Either the spouse was the "putter down" in which case they must turn to someone else for a "puller up" or their career engenders the depression in which case, their mate knows them all too well and invokes feelings of guilt and failure rather than raises their self esteem. They fall in love with someone who provides a big boost to their egos, who sees them as they would like to see themselves--who validates their own self fantasies (Reik, 1964; Orlinsky, 1971). At the same time the more approval one gives another, the less "weight" it carries. It is a much bigger boost to the self to be admired by another person than one's loyal spouse.

Feelings of romantic love are also reinforced by mutual agreement about various topics--consensual validation which provides an individual with independent judgment of the correctness of his views and decisions. A number of laboratory studies have shown that married couples are not as likely to agree with each other as paired couples. They less often provide consensual validation for each other (Rubin, 1973). Finally, romantic love is reinforced by the positive experiences involved in dating. Couples go to restaurants, listen to music, engage in pleasurable experiences

which "rub off" on the people involved, creating a halo effect. The experiences married people have together are sometimes pleasurable, sometimes painful, often emotionally neutral being the exercise of responsibility to family, friends and the community. They can create both positive and negative feelings and the sum total is rarely pleasurable enough to create a halo effect (Lott and Lott, 1976; Globig, 1976).

We Aren't In Love But We Love Each Other

What takes the place of romantic love among married couples in the middle years? Something various writers have described as "mature" or "conjugal" love.

Although most writers who describe love agree that conjugal or mature or married love or affection as it is variously termed is not the same as romantic love, they disagree on the essential elements of the term.

Eric Fromm (1956), the famous American psychoanalytic philosopher, insists that such love has four major elements: respect, knowledge, responsibility for the other person, and care and concern for the other's welfare. Rollo May (Miller and Siegel, 1972), the existentialist philosopher, makes the same point when he argues that mature love contains elements of eros or sexual love, philis or brotherly love, and agape or devotion to the other's welfare. Alexander Lowen (1972) goes one step further and argues that mature love implies total commitment to the love object that embraces the future as well as the present.

Attempting to measure conjugal love is even more difficult than defining it. Clifford Swensen (1972), a Purdue psychologist, measures love by several different actions: material evidence such as giving gifts, nonmaterial evidence, showing concern, shared activities, similarity of goals, self disclosure of intimate personal facts, verbal expressions of feelings and physical expression of love. David Knox and Michael Sporakowski (1968) feel that conjugal love is the opposite of romantic love. In their research on love, they devised a scale of romantic love including such questions as: "When you are really in love, you just aren't interested in anyone else. Love doesn't make sense. It just is. When love hits, you know it." A person who agrees with such statements feels romantic love, a person who disagrees with such statements has conjugal love.

Most social scientists who have studied conjugal love, however, simply ask about love and affection without defining the terms: "How do you feel about the love and affection you receive? (Blood and Wolfe, 1960) or "Please tell me which of these statements best describes how you feel about the love and affection you receive from your spouse: pretty disappointed, it would be nice to have more, it's all right, very satisfied, enthusiastic (Scanzoni, 1970).

Conjugal love seems to be the cooled off romantic love that was characteristic of the couple when they were dating--less frantic, more companionable. It is a feeling accompanying a good interpersonal relationship; the good feeling that results from past companionship and emotional support, the anticipation of future enjoyment, and a sense of fulfillment at having one's own needs met and meeting another person's needs. In a sense it is respect, but respect connotes being appreciated for one's

accomplishments, while love means being appreciated for one's self. Love includes but surpasses respect. Love is the total positive feeling one has for another person. Regardless of the person's present actions, it is the feeling that sets in motion the desire to stop on the way home from work for a few flowers and the effort to bake a special cake for a not particularly special dinner. Conjugal love is what motivates a wife to make chicken curry for her husband when she personally hates curry and what motivates him to eat it even though it tastes terrible. Conjugal love is expressed in companionship, colleagueship and understanding. It is not the drugged high self esteem of romantic love, but a calmer sense of well being that comes from regard, appreciation and loyalty over time.

We Like Each Other But I Don't Think We Love Each Other Anymore

Not all couples in the middle years are so fortunate as to have developed conjugal love. For many, a more or less pleasant friendship has evolved, one in which parental, occupational and community activities are more important than the interpersonal relationship of the couple. They do not fight; they probably even respect each other. They are just emotionally distant, being caught up in other roles. He is chasing a career; she may be doing the same or striving to become a perfect housekeeper and mother. At night he attends the Rotary; she the PTA. They may even address each other as "mother" and "father" indicating the salience of their mutual dependency as parents. John Cuber and Peggy Haroff in their study of marriages among upper middle class couples in their middle years described this as a "devitalized" marriage (1972).

We Get Along

Such terms characterize the relationship of couples who at worst live in an armed camp, at best in a state of uneasy truce concentrating on the utilitarian aspects of their marriage which keep them together. Husband and wife may have become so habituated to conflict that it no longer has much emotional significance. (They are called conflict habituated marriages by Cuber and Harroff). Alternatively they may have little overt conflict but each is aware that the other is interested in retaining the marriage for the rewards it brings outside the interpersonal relationship: money, children, social status, a stable environment. Each may supplement the marriage with a romantic affair on the side.

Such couples may be held together by mutual dependency. Often the wife is dependent upon her husband for a definition of self worth as well as economic support. She could be, for example, the wife of a doctor, which offers vicarious esteem she would not want to relinquish. He may also be dependent upon her dependence for his own emotional props, hiding behind "the wife needs me" to free him from the necessity for further striving and personal growth. They may both be dependent upon each other because they perceive the world as hostile and need a barrier between their own personal lives and others.

At worst, such couples are trapped together by their own unwillingness to face loneliness and independence. Their self esteem may be so low that they do not perceive any alternatives to the situation in which they feel miserable. They may also be trapped by religious and cultural definitions of the sacredness of the marriage contract (Levinger, 1965).

Each of these four types of love can occur among couples at any age in any type of relationship. However, as sociologists, we look for patterns of regularity among these four types and find them responsive to the major axes of the couple's relationship to society: marriage, careers and children.

Romantic Love and Marriage

What happens to passionate or romantic love when couples marry?

Apparently the death of romantic love stems from four primary sources:

ALL TOO HUMAN

The married couple confronts each other in an intimate but non erotic setting. They discover the other is an all too human being with good and bad habits and wonderful and awful personality traits. The American dating and courtship system which restricts interaction to specific erotic settings fosters fantasies about the other person. Each person is temporarily lifted out of self doubt into an unrealistic level of self esteem. "The Romantic Tradition institutionalizes and beautifies a neurotic state of obsessional infatuation," (Krich and Blum, 1974). Personality traits which would be deplored in any one else are admired in the loved one.

MARRIAGE IS A PRISON

Another source of disillusionment with marriage stems from the restriction on personal freedom which it imposes. Free time is not one's own and financial interdependence restricts the spending of money. Career meshing constricts choices in the determination of future life style. The lover becomes a negative reinforcer as well as a positive attraction producing ambivalent feelings in place of the consuming passion of romantic love.

NO DESERT ISLAND

Husband and wife are no longer disembodied souls searching for unity and fulfillment. They are also business partners and as such have culturally defined roles of husband and wife. Although the American Romantic Myth conditions couples not to consider whether their intended would make a good husband or wife, they do carry around conceptions in their heads of what husbands and wives do, what playing the role entails. These conceptions may come from observations of their own parents, the mass media, or married friends. Husband and wife roles contain duties to the outside world, "What do you mean you want to stay home and paint. Husbands are supposed to earn a living;" to the household "But all wives can sew;" and to the spouse, "You are supposed to want to listen to my day at the office." Failure to perform husband-wife roles according to the preconceived notions of one's spouse (and the preconceived notions of one's inlaws as well; families continually structure the couple's notions of husband and wife roles) is at the center of much marital unhappiness.

Conjugal Love and the Cycle of Marriage

If we examine the course of love during the life cycle of a marriage, we find that it does not just decline, as if worn out with old age. Instead, it follows a fairly regular pattern similar to the pattern of companionship, understanding and marital happiness--all of which are part of the same package. Love starts out on a high plane, dips quickly after a few years and then slowly regains itself after about 20-25 years of marriage although never to reach its former heights. Feelings of love are greater in the middle years than at any earlier stage in the life of the marriage

(with the exception of the honeymoon) (Burr, 1970; Feldman, 1964; Blood and Wolfe, 1960; Glenn, 1975; Deutsher, 1964; Rollins and Feldman, 1970; Rollins and Cannon, 1974).

If we examine love in the cycle of marriage including the number and ages of children, we find that love declines rapidly with the birth of the first child, rises slowly thereafter and hits its peak at the time of the post parental years. It seems almost sacreligious to say, given the preoccupation of American Society with the joys of parenthood, but conjugal love shades into liking during the years of bearing and raising children. Although family researchers have not come to a definitive conclusion about what level of crisis parenthood brings, they have agreed that it does mark an important transition in the life of most couples (Blood and Wolfe, 1960; Russell, 1974; LeMasters, 1957) marked by the ascendance of parental over marital roles. Couples see little of each other; they have more conflict over money and over the raising and disciplining of young children. The household routine is upset. Both parents are fatigued, unable and unwilling to communicate their frustrations to the child. Parenthood has a sobering and depressing effect upon love (Feldman, 1964). If the couple does not divorce, the reuniting phase seems to occur when the children become teenagers. The couple begin to fight with the children rather than over them (Davis, 1940; Duvall, 1976).

Contrary to the popular conception of the empty nest as a crisis for the couple, this post parental period seems to be one of renewed love and vigor for the couple. They are free to lead their own lives without having to be models for their children. They refer to this period as contentment and satisfaction. They have come to terms with their marriage as a companionate, sedentary relationship (Veroff and Feld, 1970). They feel

more love for each other, and more satisfaction with their union.

For couples whose major ties have been to their children the "empty nest" may produce a marital crisis of major proportions, for some ending in the divorce court. They find that without the children in their relationship is meaningless. Pauline Bart's interviews with depressed middle aged women (1971) disclosed that the most unhappy women at this stage were those self sacrificing women who devoted their lives to their children--the stereotypical "Jewish Mothers" who had used the children as a shield to avoid emotional closeness and dependence upon husbands.

If these changes in the love between spouses were merely responsive to age, we would expect that they would follow the same pattern among couples who do not have any children. However, they do not. Childless couples do not exhibit the same U-shaped curve of love and happiness. Rather the initial high levels of happiness among newlyweds shade off slowly, almost imperceptibly as they continue their lives together (Feldman, 1964; Ryder, 1973; Blood and Wolfe, 1960).

Conjugal Love and Career Patterns

The evidence from several recent sociological studies indicates that conjugal love in contrast to getting along is highly correlated with the economic status of the couple (Cutright, 1971; Scanzoni, 1970, 1972, 1975; Barry, 1970). It isn't exactly as if the rich love each other more, but almost. Even though this idea conflicts with the American myth that love conquers adversity, socialpsychological theory backs it up.

The self concept of men in 20th Century America is dependent, in large part, upon their occupational success. Wealth or a prestigious job, engenders a positive self concept. They are satisfied with their occupational role; they are satisfied with themselves. Wives, too, respect their husbands for being successful. However, success is not absolute. Instead, it is dependent upon the success of the husband's father, the wife's father, and their friends. The husband who is doing better than expected is respected by himself and his wife. The husband who is doing less well is not respected by either of them. Although his wife may be loyal to him, several studies show she feels less companionable, less affectionate and generally less satisfied with their relationship (Cutright, 1971; Scanzoni, 1970, 1972, 1975; Barry, 1970). It isn't clear, however, whether she is less affectionate because she doesn't respect her husband or whether he is difficult to live with because he doesn't respect himself. Probably a bit of both because if he doesn't like himself, he doesn't like his wife much either, especially if he feels she is judging him (Rubin, 1973).

Not only the husband's career affects the love and affection between the couple, but the wife's career as well. Although the data are more impressionistic, it seems that wives become disillusioned with their husbands because they fail to provide them the satisfaction that they expected. They are restless and want something more than to be the loyal wife and mother and they blame their husbands for their own lack of "identity" and respect for themselves. They also blame their husbands for what they feel is a "put down" because they have no position or career of their own (Sheehey, 1977). One recent study concluded that young mothers

were flocking back to work not only for financial reasons but also because they felt powerless in a relationship in which they were financially dependent upon their husbands (LaRossa, 1976).

As career achievements become the major yardstick for the measurement of self worth among both men and women, those who "don't make it" according to their own self definition of what "making it" entails find their love for each other waning, replaced by "getting along". The middle years are especially important because they are really the watershed of career development. During the 40's and 50's the top of one's own personal career ladder becomes evident and the final judgment of success or failure is upon the couple. She knows now that she can never start a meaningful career--that the little job she has will be forever that--the little job. Or she finds there are no jobs for women her age with rusty skills and moth eaten diplomas. He knows that he will never be president or foreman. They must concentrate their lives on something else--the children, a hobby, their own activities as a couple--they must redefine their position as successful in their eyes or they must suffer the loss of self esteem and consequent depression that a self definition of failure implies. Those couples who choose the last are often the same ones whose love dies, who live out their lives in bitter resentment, or who divorce in a valiant attempt to start over, or to replace the spouse who knows the emperor has no clothes with one who has not yet discovered it.

Wives also divorce their husbands in the middle years because they are reaching out for some kind of identity which they feel rightly or wrongly, has been denied them by their husband. Perhaps their husband has not forbidden them in any patriarchial way from finding a sense of success, but has failed to appreciate their efforts or placed subtle obstacles in

their path (such as refusing to make any personal sacrifices to help with the domestic routine). Often these women find men who appreciate the undeveloped artistic or intellectual sides of their personality and reward it to the further detriment of their marital relationship. Breaking out of a marriage is increasingly becoming the turning point in growth for middle aged men and women who feel trapped in a relationship that either reinforces their sense of failure or offers no opportunities for seeking success (Stafford, 1976).

The Best Is Yet To Come

In this paper, I have tried to demonstrate that love in the middle years is not a unitary concept. Rather the type of love between men and women depends in large part upon their marital, parental and occupational status. If middle aged love has turned sour and "we love each other" has been replaced with "we get along" one cannot blame middle age or even the length of the marriage. Rather the culprit is the engulfing nature of parental roles, or the sense of occupational failure or both. But take heart, studies show that the best is yet to come (Rollins and Feldman, 1970; Burr, 1970). As couples near retirement, they either have split up and found someone else or reconciled themselves to the level of occupational success they have achieved. Their children have finally grown up and produced grandchildren which the majority of couples find less trying and more gratifying than their own children (Robertson, 1977). Although older couples may never recapture romance together, chances are they will find their golden years include the rekindling of conjugal love.

REFERENCES

- Barry, William
1970 "Marriage Research and Conflict: An Integrative Review." Psychology Bulletin 73:41-54.
- Bart, Pauline
1971 "Depression in Middle Aged Women," in Vivian Gornick and Barbara Moran, Woman in Sexist Society, Basic Books.
- Berscheid, E.K. and E. Walster
1972 "Romantic Love," in Leonard Berkowitz (ed.), Advances in Experimental Social Psychology, Vol. 6. New York: Academic Press.
- 1974 "Physical Attractiveness," in Leonard Berkowitz (ed.), Advances in Experimental Social Psychology, Vol. 7. New York: Academic Press.
- 1976 "A Little Bit About Love," in Ted Huston (ed.), Foundations of Interpersonal Attraction. New York: Academic Press.
- Blood, Robert and Donald Wolfe
1960 Husbands and Wives. New York: MacMillan Company (Free Press).
- Burr, Wesley
1970 "Satisfaction with Various Aspects of Marriage over the Life Cycle: A Random Middle Class Sample," Journal of Marriage and the Family. 32:29-37.
- Cuber, John F. and Peggy B. Harroff
1972 Sex and the Significant Americans. Baltimore: Penguin Books, Inc.
- Cutright, Phillips
1971 "Income and Family Events: Marital Stability," Journal of Marriage and the Family. 33: 291-306.
- Davis, Kingsley
1940 "The Sociology of Parent-Youth Conflict," American Sociological Review. 5:523-535.
- Deutscher, Irwin
1964 "The Quality of Postparental Life: Definitions of the Situation," Journal of Marriage and the Family. 26:52-59.
- Duvall, Evelyn
1976 Marriage and Family Development. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company.

- Feldman, Harold
1964 Cornell Studies of Marital Developments: Study in the Transition to Parenthood. Research Report, Department of Child Development and Family Relationships. New York: Cornell University.
- Fromm, Erich
1956 The Art of Loving. New York: Harper & Row.
- Glenn, Norvall
1975 "Psychological Well Being in the Post Parental Stage: Some Evidence from National Surveys," Journal of Marriage and the Family, 37:105-110.
- Globig, Linda
1976 "Effects of Crowding Sensitivity and Task Sets on Task Performance," unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Nevada, Reno.
- Knox, David and Michael Sporakowski
1968 "Attitudes of College Students Towards Love," Journal of Marriage and the Family, 30:638-642.
- Krich, Aron and Sam Blum
1974 "Marriage and the Mystique of Romance," In Carl Williams and John Crosby (eds.), Choice and Challenge. Dubuque, Iowa: William Brown and Company.
- LaRossa, Ralph
1976 "The First Pregnancy as a Marital Crisis: What We Know and Don't Know About the Effect of the First Pregnancy on the Husband-Wife Relationship," paper presented at the American Sociological Association Convention.
- Le Masters, Edgar
1957 "Parenthood as Crisis," Marriage and Family Living. 19:362-355.
- Levinger, George
1965 "Marital Cohesiveness and Dissolution: An Integrated Review," Journal of Marriage and the Family, 27: 19-28.
- Lott, Albert J. and Bernice Lott
1976 "Reward in the Formation of Positive Interpersonal Attitudes," in Ted Huston (ed.), Foundations of Interpersonal Attraction. New York: Academic Press.
- Lowen, Alexander
1972 "The Spiral of Growth: Love, Sex and Pleasure," in Herbert Otto (ed.) Love Today. New York: Dell Publishing Co.

- Miller, Howard and Paul Siegel
1972 Loving: A Psychological Approach. New York: Wiley.
- Orlinsky, David
1971 "The Psychology of Romantic Love," paper presented at the American Psychological Association meetings.
- Reik, Theodore
1963 The Need to be Loved. New York: Bantam Books.
- Robertson, Joan
1977 "Grandmotherhood: A Study of Role Conceptions," Journal of Marriage and the Family. 39: 165-174.
- Rollins, Boyd and Kenneth Cannon
1974 "Marital Satisfaction over the Life Cycle: A Reevaluation," Journal of Marriage and the Family, 36:271-282.
- Rollins, Boyd and Harold Feldman
1970 "Marital Satisfaction over the Family Life Cycle," Journal of Marriage and the Family. 32:20-28.
- Rubin, Zick
1973 Liking and Loving. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
- Russell, Candyce Smith
1974 "Transition to Parenthood: Problems and Gratification," Journal of Marriage and the Family. 36: 294-301.
- Ryder, Robert
1973 "Longitudinal Data Relating Marriage Satisfaction and Having a Child," Journal of Marriage and the Family. 35:604-608.
- Secord, Paul F. and Carl W. Backman
1974 Social Psychology. New York: McGraw Hill.
- Scanzoni, John
1970 Opportunity and the Family. New York: Free Press.
1972 Sexual Bargaining. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
1975 "Sex Roles, Economic Factors and Marital Solidarity in Black and White Marriages," Journal of Marriage and the Family. 37:548-555.
- Sheehey, Gail
1977 Passages. New York: Dutton Publishing Company
- Stafford, Rebecca
1976 "After Divorce," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Council on Family Relations, Reno, Nevada, May.

Swensen, Clifford

1972 "The Behavior of Love," in Herbert Otto (ed.) Love Today.
New York: Dell Publishing Company.

Veroff, Joseph and Sheila Feld

1970 Marriage and Work in America. New York: Van Nostrand.